basis" till 31.12.1996. The outstanding, amounts payable by BTPS to Coal Companies and Railways as on 30.11.1996, are Rs. 120.94 crores and Rs. 727.39 crores, respectively.

(b) As per decision of the Government, Government of Delhi/ DESU is to increase its monthly payments to Badarpur Thermal Power Station by Rs. 5 crores per month from October, 1996 against current dues and to pay in full to BTPS all the current dues for purchase of power w.e.f. 1.1.1997 so as to enable BTPS to make payment for coal supplies and advance payment of freight to the Railways for transportation of coal.

Diesel Outlets for Farmers' Cooperatives, etc.

2180. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to sanction diesel outlets to farmers' cooperatives, Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Bodies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the reasons for not broad-basing the marketing strategy of oil companies;

(d) whether it is a fact that very few outlets for marketing are being released every year; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to expand the marketing outlets for diesel and petrol?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) As per existing policy, 55% of dealerships/ distributorships of petroleum products are earmarked for open category Consumers Cooperative Societies are eligible to apply for such dealerships. They are given preference over other candidates under this category. There is no proposal at present to sanction diesel outlets exclusively for Farmers Cooperatives, Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Bodies.

(c) and (e) Oil Marketing Companies decide their marketing strategy keeping in view the consumption in an area, their commercial interest and customers' requirements. Locations for new retial outlets are identified on the basis of the market survey keeping in view the volume-distance norms. These are included in the Marketing Plans and dealers are selected in accordance with the prescribed guidelines. This is a continuous process.

(d) No, Sir.

LPG Connection at Basot

2181. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of the original registrants for LPG connections at Basot, Distt. Almora, U.P. remain yet to be allotted LPG connections;

(b) whether any efforts have been made to enlarge the number of beneficiaries receiving LPG from this point;

(c) whether DBC facility has been provided to the registrants at this point; and

(d) if not, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir. The Oil Companies have only a waiting list of 106 with the distributor at Basot, District Almora, U.P.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir, however, due to limited product availability during the 2nd and 3rd quarters of 1996-97, new connections could not be released across the counter.

Presently, 15 customers have been provided with DBC facility, which is available for other customers also.

(d) Does not apply in view of "C"